

10/524377

Rec'd PTO 11 FEB 2005

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/03549

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A01N37/36 A01N37/06 A01N37/04 A01N37/02 //(A01N37/36,
25:10),(A01N37/06,25:10),(A01N37/04,25:10),(A01N37/02,25:10)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 02 28180 A (ECOLAB INC) 11 April 2002 (2002-04-11) page 6, paragraph 2; example 1; tables 1-7 page 7, paragraph 1 ---	1-166
X	US 5 734 006 A (NARAYANAN KOLAZI S) 31 March 1998 (1998-03-31) the whole document column 2, line 60 - line 62 ---	1-166
A	US 2002/010099 A1 (BICKERS UDO ET AL) 24 January 2002 (2002-01-24) the whole document -----	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 October 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

23/10/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Bertrand, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/03549

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-166(all partly)
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-166(all partly)

The wording "(a) organic acid" and even the descriptive general formula given in claim 2 is so broad, that a search cannot be carried out within its whole scope, too many alternatives being to be taken into account. Further, the polymer (b) is defined in claim 1 only by a complexing property with respect to (a). This property is intrinsically present in many polymers, but since this property is not necessarily mentioned in the prior art, it is not possible to carry out a complete search as to the polymer either.

Therefore, the search has been limited to combinations of acids as listed in claim 3 and polymers as listed in claim 4.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 03/03549

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0228180	A	11-04-2002	AU 9494901 A CA 2424186 A1 EP 1322157 A2 WO 0228180 A2	15-04-2002 11-04-2002 02-07-2003 11-04-2002
US 5734006	A	31-03-1998	US 5684121 A AU 4248196 A EP 0796076 A1 WO 9617579 A1	04-11-1997 26-06-1996 24-09-1997 13-06-1996
US 2002010099	A1	24-01-2002	DE 10022986 A1 AU 6389801 A BR 0110709 A CA 2408347 A1 WO 0184926 A1 EP 1286587 A1	22-11-2001 20-11-2001 28-01-2003 15-11-2001 15-11-2001 05-03-2003